



Advanced Control Systems Lab

ACSL TurtleBot3 e-Manual

June 2020

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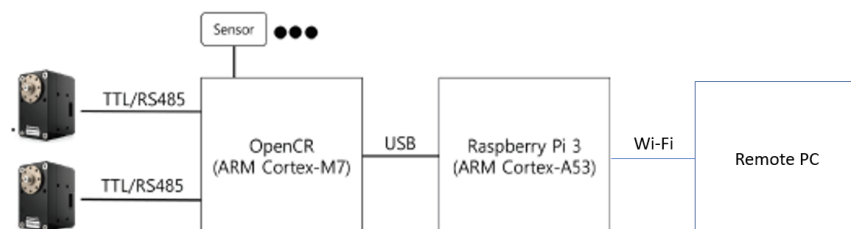
Abstract

This guide documents the changes made to TurtleBot3 software to meet the requirements of ACSL research group. It contains instructions on setting up the robot and code documentation.

1 Overview and Setup

TurtleBot3 is a small ROS-based mobile robot. The TurtleBot3 can be customized by changing the source code and addition of new hardware. TurtleBot3 Waffle Pi is equipped with a Raspberry Pi Camera Module (v2), a 360-degree Laser Distance Sensor (LDS) and Dynamixel XM430 210-T motors.

TurtleBot3 architecture is described in the following image.



The four major components of TurtleBot3 are

1. Raspberry Pi 3B+ Single Board Computer (SBC).
2. OpenCR Embedded System Board.
3. LDS and Camera Sensors.
4. Dynamixel Actuators.

Raspberry Pi has a WiFi module built onto the board which connects to a computer, known as the Remote PC. Remote PC is used to send commands for SLAM and Navigation to TB3 and visualization of the sensor data is also performed on the remote PC.

There is a one time setup that needs to be performed on the Remote PC, Raspberry Pi and OpenCR board. Most of the software is located in the form of a binary file that is burnt to the EEPROM of the STM32F746 chip on the OpenCR board. As the software used for ACSL projects is custom, it is burnt using Arduino IDE.

1.1 Remote PC Setup

To begin you will need to install the appropriate ROS version on your remote PC. The remote PC will be running ROS Melodic (EOL date: May 2023). The single board computer on Turtlebot3 will be running ROS Kinetic (EOL date: April 2021) for the ease of setup since ROS Melodic requires manual compilation when using Raspbian. No problem has yet been found by us on the communication between these 2 releases.

The following page from [ros.org](http://wiki.ros.org/melodic/Installation/Ubuntu) describes the process for adding and installing all necessary packages to your ROS Environment.

<http://wiki.ros.org/melodic/Installation/Ubuntu>

Note that please do not follow the Turtlebot3 guide to configure the ROS environment on the remote PC (**Step 6.1.1-6.1.3**). Instead, simply follow the instructions in the link above.

Then, install required dependencies

```
sudo apt install ros-melodic-joy ros-melodic-teleop-twist-joy ros-melodic-teleop-twist-keyboard
ros-melodic-laser-proc ros-melodic-rgbd-launch ros-melodic-depthimage-to-laserscan
ros-melodic-rosserial-arduino ros-melodic-rosserial-python ros-melodic-rosserial-server
ros-melodic-rosserial-client ros-melodic-rosserial-msgs ros-melodic-amcl ros-melodic-map-server
ros-melodic-move-base ros-melodic-urdf ros-melodic-xacro ros-melodic-compressed-image-transport
ros-melodic-rqt-image-view ros-melodic-gmapping ros-melodic-navigation
ros-melodic-interactive-markers
```

Warning! We have used other dependencies but we didn't keep documentation, we need to figure out all the deps that we have used.

The next step is to configure network settings for permanent use. The Remote PC will be controlling the turtlebot pc via wifi using SSH protocol. Steps for configuring the wifi on the remote pc can be found [here](#).

https://emanual.robotis.com/docs/en/platform/turtlebot3/pc_setup/#network-configuration

For this project we will use the Linksys Router on the **Linksys04294** network. It is helpful to write down the IP address of the remote pc, since you will need it later to setup the turtlebot pc network settings.

Then, clone and build the git repository.

```
git clone https://github.com/hanyiabc/ASCL_turtlebot3.git
cd ASCL_turtlebot3/
catkin_make
```

Add this environment variable to .bashrc and refresh the environment variables

```
echo "export _TURTLEBOT3_MODEL=waffle_pi_effort_controller" >> ~/.bashrc
source ~/.bashrc
```

On the original Turtlebot code, this environment variable is used to define the model of the Turtlebot, possible values are **waffle**, **waffle_pi**, **burger**. Difference URDF file is loaded based on this environment variable. For this project however, we defined new URDF files for effort control, so we need to set the environment variable to what we have defined as the name of the model for effort control.

1.2 Raspberry Pi SBC Setup

Now it is time to look at the turtlebot SBC. For the turtlebot 3 Waffle Pi model, the on board PC is a raspberry PI. This step requires a micro SD card with adapter, a monitor with an HDMI input, a USB keyboard and mouse, and a power source for the turtlebot. ROBOTIS provides a prebuilt desktop environment for the turtlebot with ROS kinetic. Instructions for flashing this distribution can be found here (**Step 6.2.1.2 Install Linux Based on Raspbian, Do not use the other two methods.**).

https://emanual.robotis.com/docs/en/platform/turtlebot3/raspberry_pi_3_setup/#raspberry-pi-3-setup

To use the Raspberry PI without a physical access, use SSH. Example SSH command:

```
ssh pi@YOUR_RASPBERRY_PI_IP
```

For the ease of use, VNC configuration is recommended. This provide remote desktop functionality. In case of Debian Stretch (the version that the manual will use), install Real VNC by running this command on the Raspberry PI:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install realvnc-vnc-server realvnc-vnc-viewer
```

Then enable VNC server by

```
sudo raspi-config
```

Then navigate to Interfacing Options. Scroll down and select VNC - Yes.

Ubuntu Desktop 18.04 comes with VNC client Remmina. On Windows, use VNC viewer <https://www.realvnc.com/en/connect/download/viewer/>

1.3 OpenCR Setup

The original source code for TurtleBot3 used the inbuilt PID controller of the Dynamixel XM430 210-T actuators. However, to benchmark the performance of the controllers, the control is shifted from the motors to higher level software such as Simulink or a custom ROS node.

The source code for OpenCR can be downloaded by cloning the following repository.

https://github.com/hanyiabc/ASCL_turtlebot3.git

Arduino IDE can be used to burn the **turtlebot3_core.ino** file located in **ASCL_turtlebot3/src/turtlebot3_core** directory. Instructions for setting up the Arduino IDE for TurtleBot3 can be found in the following link.

<https://emanual.robotis.com/docs/en/parts/controller/opencr10/#arduino-ide>

2 Repository Introduction

The repository is a catkin workspace. A catkin workspace has a `src` folder that contains multiple packages. The worth-mentioning packages are:

- `hls_lfcd_lds_driver`
- `raspicam_node`
- `ros_control`
- `simulink`
- `turtlebot3`
 - `turtlebot3_bringup`
 - `turtlebot3_navigation`
 - `turtlebot3_slam`
 - `turtlebot3_teleop`
- `turtlebot3_core`
- `turtlebot3_setup_motor`
- `turtlebot3_simulations`

Not all packages are catkin package. **simulink**, **turtlebot3_core** **turtlebot3_setup_motor** are all just directories. All the rests are properly configured as catkin packages, meaning all the nodes defined under the package will be compiled when running the **catkin make** command.

hls_lfcd_lds_driver and **raspicam_node** are drivers for the PI Camera and lidar. These will be running in the single board computer.

ros_control contains all the configuration and nodes necessary to control the robot. It contains the PID controller configuration, PID gains, etc. Two launch files are included for controlling the robot in either the simulations or in the physical world. They are:

- `turtlebot3_control.launch`
- `turtlebot3_control_simulation.launch`

These launch file are not ran directly, instead they are included by other launch file that we will introduce later. The PID gains can be tuned by either changing the parameters in the launch file or use a ros package called `rqt_reconfigure` to adjust parameters with sliders at runtime. There are 2 nodes under the **ros_control** package. They are **differential_driver.py** and **ros_control_node**. The **differential_driver.py** is a Python ros node that split the incoming `/cmd_vel` messages into left and right velocity for the differential drive robot based on vehicle geometry. The `cmd_vel` is the standard topic that ROS nav stack used to output the velocity command. It commands the robot in terms of translational velocity and orientation. The **ros_control_node** is a C++ ros node compiled from the source file: **message_redirect.cpp**. This node simply takes the left and right wheel angular velocities feedbacks from `joint_states` converts them to linear velocities and publish them into 2 Float64 messages for the PID controller to read.

The directory **simulink** contains all the MATLAB scrips and Simulink models for controlling the robot with MATLAB

turtlebot3_bringup contains all the launch file for bringing up the Turtlebot in the SBC and the remote PC. **turtlebot3_physical_nav_control.launch** was added to the bringup package to provide a convinient one-file launch that will handles everything. This launch file brings up the turtlebot on the remote PC, runs the velocity control and the navigation stack with SLAM. A simulation version will be provided in the future.

turtlebot3_description contains the URDF and Gazebo description of the turtlebot for both simulation and physical robot.

For Waffle Pi, **turtlebot3_waffle_pi.gazebo.xacro** and **turtlebot3_waffle_pi.urdf.xacro** are provided by the turtlebot package, however, for effort control, we added 2 more files. They are: **turtlebot3_waffle_pi_effort_controller.gazebo.xacro** and **turtlebot3_waffle_pi_effort_controller.urdf.xacro**. These files are derived from the original descriptions and added ability to control effort in both the simulation and the physical robot.

turtlebot3_navigation contains the default configuration for running the ROS navigation stack with the Turtlebot. A new launch file **turtlebot3_navigation_no_map.launch** was created. This launch file derived from the original navigation launch file, but the difference is that this configuration doesn't need a SLAM map for localization. The localization is provided by SLAM instead of Adaptive Monte Carlo Localization. The default launch file **turtlebot3_navigation.launch** will run navigation assuming that a SLAM map has been drawn by running SLAM before. In this configuration, localization is provided by AMCL.

3 Torque Control using Dynamixel

Dynamixel is a microcontroller based actuator with in-built PID controller. OpenCR communicates with Dynamixel using packet communication via TTL/RS45 ports.

Hardware level abstraction is achieved via Dynamixel SDK library available in several programming languages. (C++ used in our case.) Dynamixel register addresses and byte sizes for both RAM and EEPROM memory provided in control table. RAM is most frequently used memory for robot applications, while startup settings are stored on EEPROM.

The Control Table is a structure that consists of multiple Data fields to store status or to control the device. Users can check current status of the device by reading a specific Data from the Control Table with Read Instruction Packets. WRITE Instruction Packets enable users to control the device by changing specific Data in the Control Table. Packet sizes range from 1 – 4 bytes.

Following is a snapshot of the Dynamixel EEPROM Control Table. Each data in the Control Table is restored to initial values when the device is turned on. Default values in the EEPROM area (addresses 0-63) are initial values of the device (factory default settings). If any values in the EEPROM area are modified by a user, modified values will be restored as initial values when the device is turned on. Initial Values in the RAM area are restored when the device is turned on.

Address	Size (Byte)	Data Name	Access	Default Value	Range	Unit
0	2	Model Number	R	1,030	-	-
2	4	Model Information	R	-	-	-
6	1	Firmware Version	R	-	-	-
7	1	ID	RW	1	0 ~ 253	-
8	1	Baud Rate	RW	1	0 ~ 7	-
9	1	Return Delay Time	RW	250	0 ~ 254	2 [μsec]
10	1	Drive Mode	RW	0	0 ~ 1	-
11	1	Operating Mode	RW	3	0 ~ 16	-
12	1	Secondary(Shadow) ID	RW	255	0 ~ 252	-
13	1	Protocol Type	RW	2	1 ~ 2	-
20	4	Homing Offset	RW	0	-1,044,479 ~ 1,044,479	1 [pulse]
24	4	Moving Threshold	RW	10	0 ~ 1,023	0.229 [rev/min]
31	1	Temperature Limit	RW	80	0 ~ 100	1 [°C]
32	2	Max Voltage Limit	RW	160	95 ~ 160	0.1 [V]
34	2	Min Voltage Limit	RW	95	95 ~ 160	0.1 [V]
36	2	PWM Limit	RW	885	0 ~ 885	0.113 [%]
38	2	Current Limit	RW	1,193	0 ~ 1,193	2.69 [mA]
44	4	Velocity Limit	RW	330	0 ~ 1,023	0.229 [rev/min]

For the purpose of torque control, the operating mode of the dynamixel motor needs to be set to **MODE 0**. This can be done using the motor setup code in the git repository. To change the operating mode to **MODE 0**, flash the turtlebot3_setup_motor firmware to the OpenCR board while the motors are connected to the board. Open up a serial terminal with Arduino or TeraTerm, under the serial terminal, you will see the following options:

```

1. setup left motor
2. setup right motor
3. test left motor
4. test right motor
5. setup left motor for current control
6. setup right motor for current control
7. test left motor for current control
8. test right motor for current control
>>

```

The first 4 options comes with the OpenCR Arduino library. The last 4 options are added based on the first 4 options and they configure the left and right motors for torque control. For now, the current is limited to half of the highest value to avoid damage to the hardware. If changes are needed, the source code needs to be modified and the motors has to be setup again. To setup the left motor, simply put 5 in the terminal and press enter. Wait until it says it's finished. Then use option 6 for the right motor. After the setup is done, use option 7 and 8 to test the motor. The test option apply a small torque to the motor for one second and stops for one second. Make sure both motors are tested then, flash the turtlebot3_core firmware back. Once the operating mode is set. The OpenCR code is changed to write torque values to the Dynamixel RAM addresses, when the robot is live. The addresses that are useful for this purpose are given in the image

below.

102	2	Goal Current	RW	-	-Current Limit(38) ~ Current Limit(38)	2.69 [mA]
104	4	Goal Velocity	RW	-	-Velocity Limit(44) ~ Velocity Limit(44)	0.229 [rev/min]
108	4	Profile Acceleration	RW	0	0 ~ 32,767 0 ~ 32,737	214.577 [rev/min ²] 1 [ms]
112	4	Profile Velocity	RW	0	0 ~ 32,767	0.229 [rev/min]
116	4	Goal Position	RW	-	Min Position Limit(52) ~ Max Position Limit(48)	1 [pulse]
120	2	Realtime Tick	R	-	0 ~ 32,767	1 [msec]
122	1	Moving	R	0	0 ~ 1	-
123	1	Moving Status	R	0	-	-
124	2	Present PWM	R	-	-	-
126	2	Present Current	R	-	-	2.69 [mA]
128	4	Present Velocity	R	-	-	0.229 [rev/min]
132	4	Present Position	R	-	-	1 [pulse]

The code that change the operating mode of the motor is below.

```

bool setupMotorLeftCurrentControl(void)
{
    CMD_SERIAL.println("Setup Motor Left for current control...");

    if (tb3_id < 0)
    {
        CMD_SERIAL.println(" no dxl motors");
    }
    else
    {
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 64, 1, 0);
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 7, 1, 1);
        tb3_id = 1;
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 8, 1, 3);
        portHandler->setBaudRate(1000000);
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 10, 1, 0);
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 11, 1, 0);

        // this set the limit to half
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 38, 2, 596);
        CMD_SERIAL.println(" Warning: Current limit is set to half to protect the motor!");
        CMD_SERIAL.println(" ok");
    }
}

```

```

    }
}

bool setupMotorRightCurrentControl(void)
{
    CMD_SERIAL.println("Setup Motor Right for current control...");

    if (tb3_id < 0)
    {
        CMD_SERIAL.println(" no dxl motors");
    }
    else
    {
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 64, 1, 0);
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 7, 1, 2);
        tb3_id = 2;
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 8, 1, 3);
        portHandler->setBaudRate(1000000);
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 10, 1, 1);
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 11, 1, 0);

        // this set the limit to half
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, tb3_id, 38, 2, 596);
        CMD_SERIAL.println(" Warning: Current limit is set to half to protect the motor!");
        CMD_SERIAL.println(" ok");
    }
}

```

The code used to test the torque control after setup is below.

```

void testMotorCurrentControl(uint8_t id)
{
    uint32_t pre_time;
    uint8_t toggle = 0;

    if (id == 1)
    {
        CMD_SERIAL.printf("Test Motor Left...");
    }
    else
    {
        CMD_SERIAL.printf("Test Motor Right...");
    }
    // We run at 1000000
    portHandler->setBaudRate(1000000);

    uint16_t model_number;
    int dxl_comm_result = packetHandler2->ping(portHandler, id, &model_number);
    if (dxl_comm_result == COMM_SUCCESS)
    {
        CMD_SERIAL.printf(" found type: %d\n", model_number);
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, id, 64, 1, 1);

        toggle = 0;
        pre_time = millis();
        write(portHandler, packetHandler2, id, 102, 2, 100);
        while (1)
        {

```

```

    if (CMD_SERIAL.available())
    {
        flushCmd();
        break;
    }

    if (millis() - pre_time > 1000)
    {
        pre_time = millis();

        toggle ^= 1;

        if (toggle)
        {
            write(portHandler, packetHandler2, id, 102, 2, 0);
        }
        else
        {
            write(portHandler, packetHandler2, id, 102, 2, 100);
        }
    }
    write(portHandler, packetHandler2, id, 102, 2, 0);
}
else
{
    CMD_SERIAL.printf(" dxl motor ID:%d not found\n", id);
}
}

```

The OpenCR Arduino library comes with a TurtleBot3MotorDriver class that helps controlling the 2 motors by commanding velocities. A new class TurtleBot3MotorTorqueDriver was derived (strictly speaking, not inherited, instead just copied and pasted) from the TurtleBot3MotorDriver with new member functions added for controlling the torque instead of velocities. The class is defined as below

```

class TurtleBot3MotorTorqueDriver
{
public:
    TurtleBot3MotorTorqueDriver();
    ~TurtleBot3MotorTorqueDriver();
    bool init(String turtlebot3);
    void close(void);
    bool setTorque(bool onoff);
    bool getTorque();
    bool readEncoder(int32_t &left_value, int32_t &right_value);
    bool writeVelocity(int64_t left_value, int64_t right_value);

    bool writeTorque(int16_t left_value, int16_t right_value);
    bool readTorque(float &left_torque, float &right_torque);
    bool controlMotor(const float wheel_radius, const float wheel_separation, float *value);
    bool controlMotor(float *torque);

private:
    uint32_t baudrate_;
    float protocol_version_;
    uint8_t left_wheel_id_;

```

```

uint8_t right_wheel_id_;
bool torque_;

uint16_t dynamixel_limit_max_velocity_;
uint16_t dynamixel_limit_max_current_;

dynamixel::PortHandler *portHandler_;
dynamixel::PacketHandler *packetHandler_;

dynamixel::GroupSyncWrite *groupSyncWriteVelocity_;
dynamixel::GroupSyncRead *groupSyncReadEncoder_;

dynamixel::GroupSyncWrite *groupSyncWriteTorque_;
dynamixel::GroupSyncRead *groupSyncReadTorque_;

```

The following member function is added to the TurtleBot3MotorDriver class, which takes in input torque value and converts it into appropriate register values for writing to the appropriate addresses.

```

bool TurtleBot3MotorTorqueDriver::controlMotor(float *torque)
{
    bool dxl_comm_result = false;

    int16_t wheel_current_cmd[2];
    wheel_current_cmd[LEFT] = CURRENT_TO_OUTPUT(TORQUE_TO_CURRENT(torque[LEFT]));
    wheel_current_cmd[RIGHT] = CURRENT_TO_OUTPUT(TORQUE_TO_CURRENT(torque[RIGHT]));

    wheel_current_cmd[LEFT] = constrain(wheel_current_cmd[LEFT], -dynamixel_limit_max_current_,
                                        dynamixel_limit_max_current_);
    wheel_current_cmd[RIGHT] = constrain(wheel_current_cmd[RIGHT],
                                        -dynamixel_limit_max_current_, dynamixel_limit_max_current_);

    dxl_comm_result = writeTorque((int16_t)wheel_current_cmd[LEFT],
                                  (int16_t)wheel_current_cmd[RIGHT]);

    if (dxl_comm_result == false)
        return false;

    return true;
}

```

CURRENT_TO_OUTPUT and **TORQUE_TO_CURRENT** are macro functions that does the conversions from torque to current and current to a 2 byte value that the microcontroller understand. All the necessary macros are defined as

```

#include <stdint.h>
#define WAFFLE_DXL_LIMIT_MAX_CURRENT 780
#define ADDR_X_GOAL_CURRENT          102
#define ADDR_X_PRESENT_CURRENT       126
#define LEN_X_GOAL_CURRENT           2
#define LEN_X_PRESENT_CURRENT        2

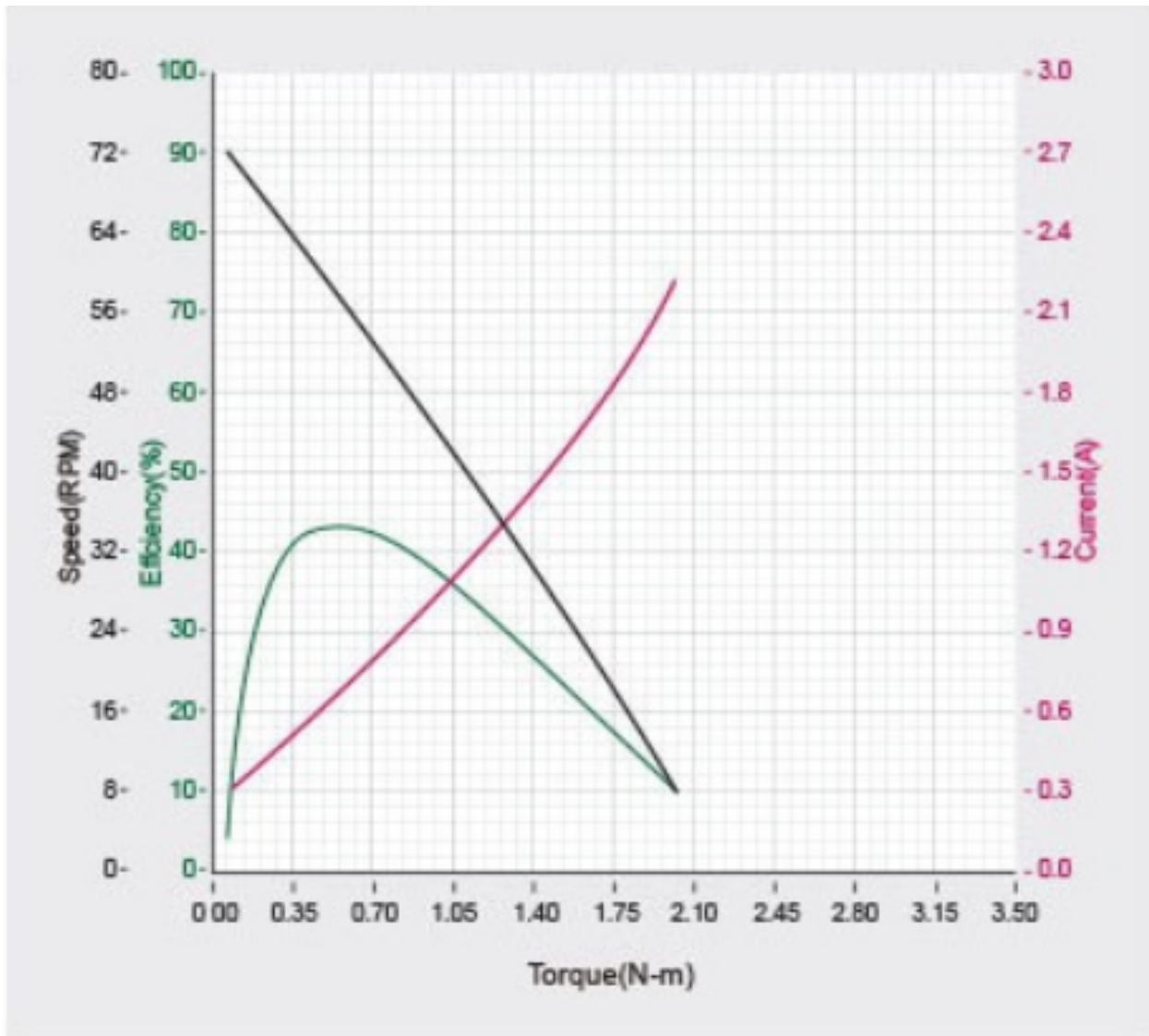
#define MAX_CURRENT_11V1              2.1
#define MAX_TORQUE_11V1              2.7

#define CURRENT_GOAL_UNIT             2.69
#define TORQUE_TO_CURRENT(t)          t * (MAX_CURRENT_11V1 / MAX_TORQUE_11V1) // convert torque to
current in amp
#define CURRENT_TO_OUTPUT(a)          (int16_t)(a * 1000 / CURRENT_GOAL_UNIT)
#define CURRENT_TO_TORQUE(t)          t / (MAX_CURRENT_11V1 / MAX_TORQUE_11V1) // convert current in amp

```

to torque in N-m

This conversion is based on a linear approximation of the actuator performance graph.



This function below takes the converted value and write to both motors using the Dynamixel SDK APIs.

```
bool TurtleBot3MotorTorqueDriver::writeTorque(int16_t left_value, int16_t right_value)
{
    bool dxl_addparam_result;
    int8_t dxl_comm_result;

    dxl_addparam_result = groupSyncWriteTorque->addParam(left_wheel_id_, (uint8_t *)&left_value);
    if (dxl_addparam_result != true)
        return false;

    dxl_addparam_result = groupSyncWriteTorque->addParam(right_wheel_id_, (uint8_t
        *)&right_value);
    if (dxl_addparam_result != true)
        return false;
}
```

```

dxl_comm_result = groupSyncWriteTorque_->txPacket();
if (dxl_comm_result != COMM_SUCCESS)
{
    Serial.println(packetHandler_->getTxRxResult(dxl_comm_result));
    return false;
}

groupSyncWriteTorque_->clearParam();
return true;
}

```

Subscribers are added to subscribe to the topics left_torque right_torque. The following use the function defined above and write the corresponding values to the correct memory location of the Dynamixel motor controller when new message comes in. When there is no new message, it will timeout and write zeros to both motors.

```

if ((t-tTime[0]) >= (1000 / CONTROL_MOTOR_TORQUE_FREQUENCY))
{

    updateGoalTorque();
    //this timeout will stop the motor if no message comes in

    if ((t-tTime[6]) > CONTROL_MOTOR_TIMEOUT)
    {
        motor_driver.controlMotor(zero_torque);
    }
    else {
        motor_driver.controlMotor(torque);
    }
}

```

4 Bring up the Turtlebot

Once the remote PC and Raspberry PI are setup according to the instructions provided in the previous sections, Follow the instructions below to bring up turtlebot.

On Remote PC

```
roscore
```

On SBC

```
roslaunch turtlebot3_bringup turtlebot3_robot.launch
```

On Remote PC, once you followed the instructions for building the workspace and setting up the environment variables, load the environment variables related to this workspace (Note: This has to be done everytime you want to run something from this workspace from a new terminal)

```
cd ASCL_turtlebot3/  
source devel/setup.bash
```

To run teleop to control the Turtlebot with keyboard.

```
roslaunch turtlebot3_teleop turtlebot3_teleop_key.launch
```

To run the navigation with PID velocity effort controller and SLAM (with localizatin provided by SLAM and no initial map required) on the physical robot.

```
roslaunch turtlebot3_bringup turtlebot3_physical_nav_control.launch
```

To run the navigation with PID velocity effort controller and SLAM (with localizatin provided by SLAM and no initial map required) on Gazebo for simulation.

```
roslaunch turtlebot3_bringup turtlebot3_sim_nav_control.launch
```

To run SLAM only to draw maps Choose a pre-defined Gazebo world from the following:

- turtlebot3_empty_world.launch
- turtlebot3_world.launch
- turtlebot3_house.launch
- turtlebot3_stage_1.launch
- turtlebot3_stage_2.launch
- turtlebot3_stage_3.launch
- turtlebot3_stage_4.launch

For example, if **turtlebot3_world.launch** is chosen, run the following command to bring up a virtual Turtlebot on Gazebo for simulation

```
roslaunch turtlebot3_gazebo turtlebot3_world.launch
```

Then, run the following commands to launch the SLAM nodes and remote control using keyboard.

```
roslaunch turtlebot3_slam turtlebot3_slam.launch slam_methods:=gmapping
roslaunch turtlebot3_teleop turtlebot3_teleop_key.launch
```

Once you are satisfied with the map, save the map by running

```
roslaunch map_server map_saver -f ~/map
```

5 Syncing Time using NTP Server and Client

Raspberry Pi does not have a hardware clock, and therefore it relies on an active internet connection to fetch the accurate time from Ubuntu time server. However, this is not possible as Linksys router, which the raspberry pi will connect to over WiFi, will not have internet access.

Every time pi boots up, the time has to be updated. The time on the Remote PC and the Raspberry Pi have to be synced up in order for the various transformations to work for the purpose of running SLAM and Navigation in the ACSL Lab Environment. Hence, to sync up time between these two machines, NTP protocol is being used.

NTP or Network Time Protocol is a protocol that is used to synchronize all system clocks in a network to use the same time. When we use the term NTP, we are referring to the protocol itself and also the client and server programs running on the networked computers. NTP belongs to the traditional TCP/IP protocol suite and can easily be classified as one of its oldest parts.

When you are initially setting up the clock, it takes six exchanges within 5 to 10 minutes before the clock is set up. Once the clocks in a network are synchronized, the client(s) update their clocks with the server once every 10 minutes. This is usually done through a single exchange of message(transaction). These transactions use port number 123 of your system.

In this section, a step-by-step procedure is described on how to:

- Install and configure the NTP server on a Ubuntu machine.
- Configure the NTP Client to be time synced with the server.

5.1 Install and configure NTP Server on the host computer

Open Terminal and run the following commands

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install ntp
```

Most likely ntp will already be installed on the machine. After installation, the configuration file needs to be altered and server pools closest to the PC location needs to be added. This step is optional, as most likely the servers will be configured correctly.

```
sudo gedit /etc/ntp.conf
```

Replace the server pools with the following.

```
server 0.us.pool.ntp.org
server 1.us.pool.ntp.org
server 2.us.pool.ntp.org
server 3.us.pool.ntp.org
```

Save and close the configuration file. In order for the above changes to take effect, you need to restart the NTP server.

```
sudo service ntp restart
sudo service ntp status
```

Finally, the system's UFW firewall needs to be configured so that incoming connections can access the NTP server at UDP Port number 123.


```
sudo ufw allow from any to any port 123 proto udp
```

Now the Ubuntu host machine is configured to be used as an NTP server.

5.2 Configure NTP Client to be Time Synced with the NTP Server

The `ntpdate` command will let you manually check your connection configuration with the NTP-server. Only in this case, the server would be the one that we specify. It should already be installed on the SBC, but in case it is not, we need to run the following command.

```
sudo apt-get install ntpdate
```

As the SBC will be a client to the host we set up on the remote PC, we need to modify the hosts file for NTP.

```
sudo gedit /etc/hosts
```

Now add your NTP server's IP and specify a hostname as follows in this file:

```
192.168.1.183 ACSLServer
```

Save and close the NTP hosts file. Running the following command will show the offset between server and client times.

```
sudo ntpdate ACSLServer
```

First we need to disable time sync on the client

```
systemctl stop systemd-timesyncd
systemctl disable systemd-timesyncd
```

Now to correct this time offset we need to configure NTP on the client machine.

If `ntp` is not installed install it using the following command.

```
sudo apt-get install ntp
```

Now we want our client machine to use our own NTP host server to be used as the default time server. For this, we need to edit the `/etc/ntp.conf` file on the client machine.

```
sudo nano /etc/ntp.conf
```

Add the following line to the list of servers

```
server ACSLServer prefer iburst
```

Finally restart the `ntp` service and the time should be synced.

```
sudo service ntp restart
```

Now your client and server machines are configured to be time-synced. You can view the time synchronization queue by running the following command:

```
ntpq -ps
```